

Influence of phacoemulsification surgery on progression of diabetic retinopathy

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Objective:

To assess the influence of phacoemulsification surgery on progression of diabetic retinopathy in diabetic patients.

Setting:

Istanbul University, Istanbul Medicine Faculty, Department of Ophthalmology

Design:

Retrospective chart review

Methods:

Medical records of 100 diabetic patients who underwent phacoemulsification and posterior lens implantation surgery were reviewed retrospectively. Fundus photos and fluorescein angiograms were performed in all patients. Visual acuity, complications, the occurrence of new diabetic retinopathy and progression of retinopathy were investigated.

Results:

The patients were followed up a median of 26 months (range 8 to 42 months) after cataract surgery. Visual acuity improved in 90% of the patients. Macular edema was the cause of the visual loss in 5% of the patients. Posterior capsule perforation was recorded in 3% of the patients. Visual acuity did not improve in these patients. The retinopathy remained unchanged in 84% of patients and showed progression in 16 % of the patients. No eye progressed to proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

Conclusion:

Modern cataract surgery seems to have no influence on the progression of diabetic retinopathy. So it is a safe and effective method that can be done before the treatment of retinopathy.